

REMARKS

Claims 20-23 and 25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-19 were previously withdrawn subject to a restriction requirement. Claim 24 has been canceled. Claim 20 has been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following responsive remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

In the office action of October 19, 2006, the following actions were taken:

(1) Claims 20-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. Publication No. 2003/0114936 (hereinafter "Sherwood");

(2) Claims 20, 22-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. Publication No. 2001/0005797 (hereinafter "Barlow"); and

(3) Claim 24 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims be reconsidered and allowed in light of the current amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 20-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of two references. However, the two references are now considered moot since the applicants have amended independent claim 20 with the allowed elements of former dependent claim 24, per the Examiner's suggestion.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant has amended claim 20 to include the elements of claim 24 in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. As the pending claim set now includes the elements of allowable claim 24, the Applicant submits that the pending claim set is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 20-23 and 25 present allowable subject matter and allowance is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after consideration of the above remarks, and such impediment could be removed during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone Jeff D. Limon at (541) 715-5979 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Please charge any additional fees except for Issue Fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025

Dated this the 18th day of January, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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